

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SY-10 IO-13 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10

M-03 A-01 L-03 EB-11 SCA-01 /123 R

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AF/ N: RSMITH

S/ PRS: PHARE

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R 262023 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR SU

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING ON SUDAN TRIAL

1. SPOKESMAN AT JUNE 26 PRESS BRIEFING DREW ON FOLLOWING  
PREPARED GUIDANCE IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUERIES:

Q. DOES THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN RE-  
FLECT U. S. SATISFACTION WITH THE PROSECUTION OF THE ARAB  
GUERRILLAS?

A. AS WE ALREADY HAVE INDICATED, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT  
ASSOCIATED THE TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF THE KHARTOUM TERROR-  
ISTS WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO  
SUDAN. THE SELECTION OF OUR NEW AMBASSADOR PROCEEDED  
NORMALLY THROUGH WASHINGTON AND DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE STATUS OF THE TRIAL?

A. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR RESUMPTION OF THE  
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MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY IN KHARTOUM, BUT WE DO HAVE REPORTS OF ACTION HAVING A DIRECT BEARING ON THE CASE. MIRGHANI AL- NASRI, PRESIDENT OF THE SUDANESE BAR ASSOCIATION, TOLD THE PRESS IN KHARTOUM ON JUNE 24 THAT THE SUDANESE DEFENSE COMMITTEE WILL MEET THIS WEEK TO STUDY LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE TERRORIST CASE AND PREPARE MEMORANDA. THE COMMITTEE ALSO WILL DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL,

WHICH WAS FORMED RECENTLY TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN THE MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL. THE ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL IS NON- SUDANESE AND IS MADE UP OF BARRISTERS FROM SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES.

MR. AL- NASRI SAID THE SUDANESE DEFENSE COMMITTEE WILL SEEK THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION FOR THE COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT ITS ASSIGNED TASKS.

MR. AL- NASRI TOLD THE PRESS THAT AFTER THESE MEETINGS ARE CONCLUDED, HE WILL MEET WITH THE MAGISTRATE AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO DETERMINE A DATE FOR RESUMING THE MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY. A TRIAL DATE WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER THESE STEPS ARE COMPLETED.

2. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WERE ASKED RE THE MEANING OF MAGISTRATE; SUBJECT OF LEGAL ASPECTS UNDER STUDY; NATIONALITY AND NUMBER OF TERRORISTS INVOLVED.

3. AF/P WOULD APPRECIATE SPELL OUT OF FUNCTIONS OF SUDAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL TO ANSWER PRESS QUERIES. ALSO NEED PRECISE PURPOSE MAGISTRATE INQUIRY. ROGERS

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